

State Parks (Ind.)

Chain o' Lakes—There's Nothing Like It Elsewhere

By Robert L. Parks
Assistant Manager,
Chain o' Lakes State Park

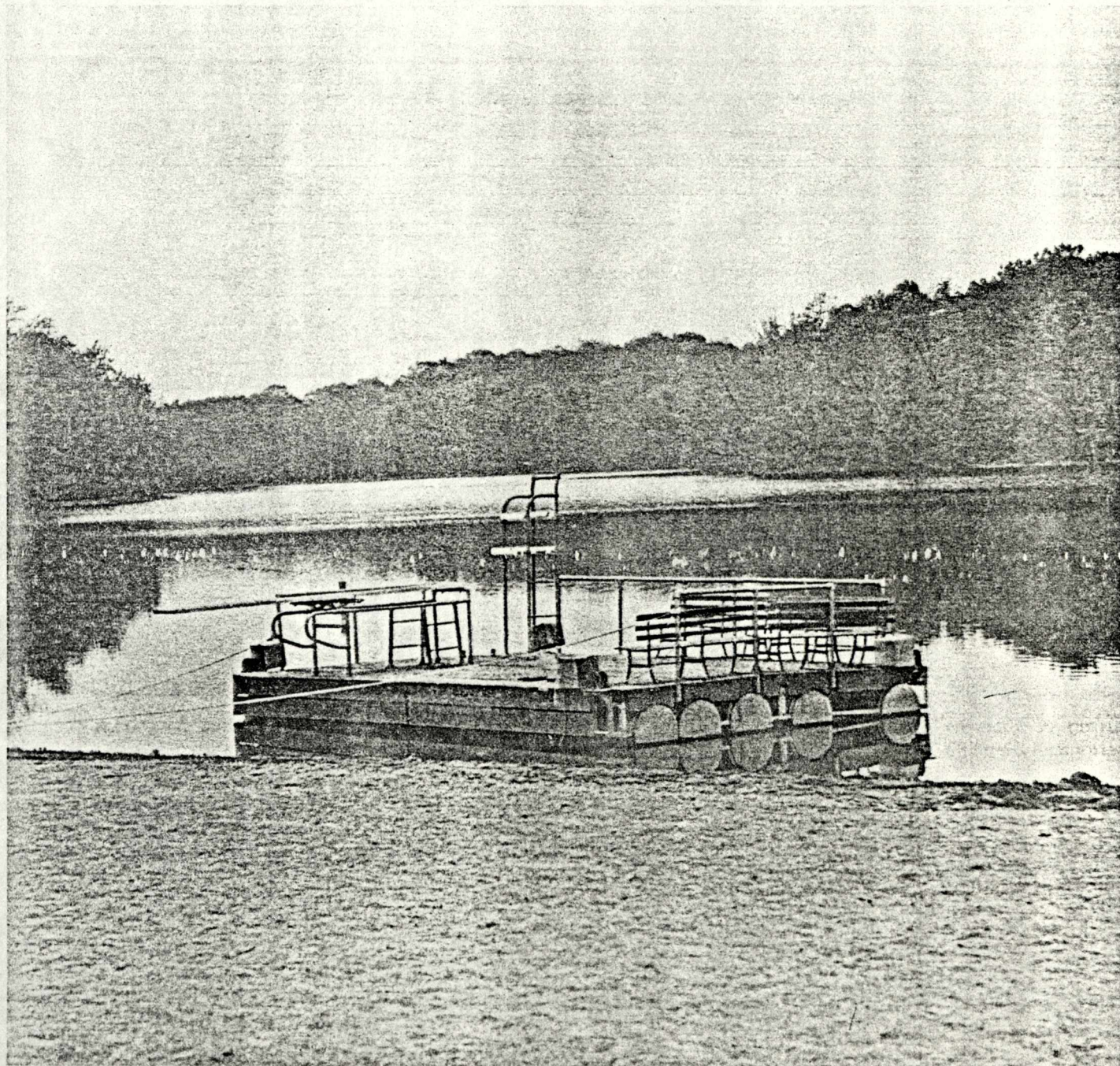
Chain o' Lakes, which just 16 years ago became the 20th unit of the famed Indiana State Park system, is on State Highway 9 just to the North of its junction with United States Highway 33 and five miles

South of Albion in Northeastern Indiana's Noble County. The Park is about 35 miles Northwest of Fort Wayne, the second largest Hoosier city.

The Park was dedicated in June of 1960 as a result of the joint efforts of the State of Indiana and the Noble, Allen and Whitley County Park

Board. The Park staff consists of eight fulltime employees, supplemented in the Summer by 10 to 25 seasonal workers. The Indiana Department of Corrections Honor Camp, located in an isolated area of the Park, also supplies from 10 to 20 young men to the labor force.

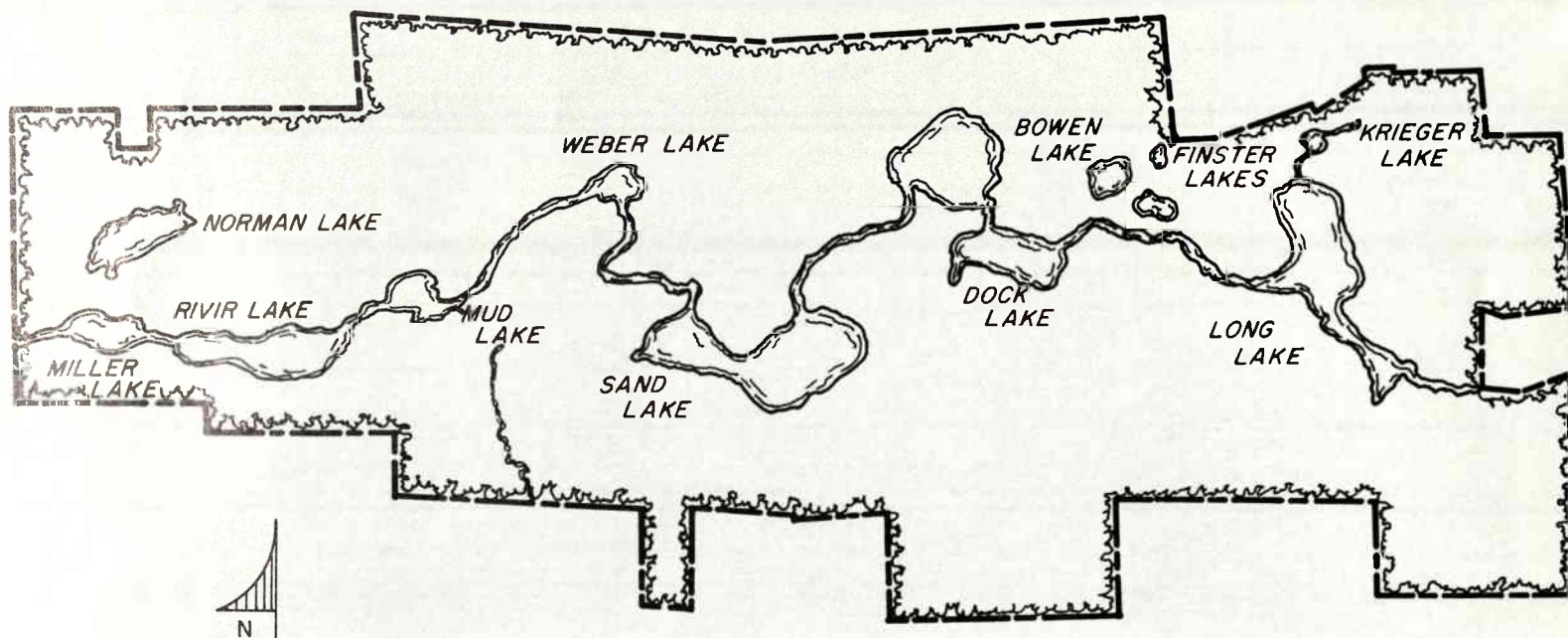
Like all other Indiana State Parks,



Bathing and Swimming Facilities Are Popular at All Indiana State Parks.



The Links Between the Larger Reaches of Water at Chain o' Lakes Offer Beauty Seldom Seen in Sophisticated Mid-America.



Chain o' Lakes is open 365 days a year, with entrance fees charged between April and November. These fees go into a special fund to support the State Parks throughout Indiana. During the period from Memorial Day through Labor Day the Park is staffed on a 24-hour basis for the safety and convenience of its visitors.

Chain o' Lakes consists of 2,731 acres of rolling Hoosier countryside, dotted by 13 small lakes. Nine of these lakes are connected by natural channels. The lakes provide 200 acres of water and seven miles of shoreline, varying from natural marsh to fully-developed areas.

The marshlands abound with Duck, Geese, Muskrat, Blue Heron, and many species of snakes and turtles.

An abundance of wildlife—such as Deer, Groundhog, Rabbit, Fox, Raccoon, Skunk, Squirrel, Pheasant, Hawk and Great Horned Owl—and many species of songbirds can be found in other areas of the Park.

The 800-foot beach and the modern beach house are located on the South shore of Sand Lake, along a boat launch, a boat and canoe rental service, and two small picnic areas. The main picnic area, on a hill over-

This Map Shows the Unique Configuration of Chain o' Lakes.

looking the beach, is within easy walking distance of Sand Lake, and has drinking water supplied by an old-fashioned windmill.

During the camping season at Chain o' Lakes many types of outdoor recreation are offered. Camping is available on 444 family sites, which have facilities varying from modern restrooms and electricity to strictly primitive.

Visitors may fish on any of the lakes for a wide variety of fish, including Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Crappie, Perch, Catfish and Rainbow Trout.

Eight trails offer hiking opportunities in various sections of the Park, ranging in length from one-half mile to nearly four miles.

Horseback riding is offered at the Saddle Barn, but only on a rental basis. No privately-owned horses are allowed.

Programs under supervision of the Park Naturalist in the campground consist of Saturday night square dancing, Nature films, and Nature lectures.

Swimming at the beach is offered at no charge from 11 A.M. to 8 P.M.

Lifeguards are on duty seven days a week from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, and a large beach house and concession stand are available. The beach has a capacity of 900.

Probably the most unusual form of recreation offered at Chain o' Lakes is a canoe trip through the channels. These natural waterways connecting nine lakes are well worth the effort involved in seeing them, especially in early Spring and late Fall. It is truly a memorable trip, whether you explore all the channels or just one.

Some of the improvements planned for the near future at Chain o' Lakes are a campground store, a canoe camping area, and two picnic shelters.

These open picnic shelters will be in the main picnic area. The canoe camping will be in the vicinity of Rivir Lake. It will be accessible by water or hiking trails only, and will be strictly primitive.

Although Chain o' Lakes is neither as old nor as widely known as some of Indiana's State Parks, its very unusual natural features and modern facilities guarantee the camper or daytime user a memorable outdoor experience.

Fishing at Chain o' Lakes

*By Stuart T. Shipman,
Fisheries Biologist*

Do you ever sit at work day-dreaming of a vacation spot where you can horseback ride, swim in chlorine-free water, take long walks in the woods, and still get in some super fishing? If so, as the preceding article suggests, then Chain O' Lakes State Park is for you.

The Park has a modern campground with hookups for the most luxurious mobile homes and campers. In addition to the 440 family campsites, there are 250 youth campsites, 60 rally sites, and 20 newly-developed canoe campsites. Other features are noted on Pages 13-15.

The biggest attraction at the Park is the lakes themselves. Here you can canoe along several miles of channels and lakes relaxing and enjoying the scenery or trying out that new fishing

rod. The only motors permitted on the lakes are electric trolling motors, so canoe enthusiasts have an open range.

The chain of lakes begins at Long Lake, located on the eastern side of the Park. Long Lake has been a popular Bluegill and Redear spot for many years and 1975 was no exception. A fisheries survey conducted in June by the Division of Fish and Wildlife of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources revealed the presence of excellent Bluegill and Redear populations. Numerous individuals of both species more than eight inches long were collected. One Redear captured was 10.5 inches long and weighed almost a pound, which would be a trophy catch for anyone!

During the survey numerous Largemouth Bass were also taken.

Although only a few of these were bigger than 14 inches (the legal size for Bass in the Park) one fish tipped the scales at four and one quarter pounds.

Fishing is best on Long Lake in the Spring and Fall. At these times the big ones are close to shore and are easily caught. Take along your cane pole and a box of night crawlers or bee moths and you're sure to come home with some fine fish.

The next lake in the chain is Dock Lake. This is one of the smaller bodies of water but is readily accessible and heavily fished for Bluegill and Largemouth Bass. This lake has been a good Autumn and Winter lake. Reportedly, numerous large Bass were taken through the ice last season.

Best fishing areas in Dock Lake are along the lily pads. Bluegill are



Typical Bluegill Fisherman on Long Lake at Chain o' Lakes.



The Quiet Serenity of Chain o' Lakes Is Always Available Not Very Far from Several of Indiana's Largest Cities.

taken with night crawlers and bee moths. Bass fishermen prefer artificial lures.

The next two lakes in the chain, Bowen and Sand, are deep and cold. Bowen has a maximum depth of 65 feet and Sand bottoms out at 47 feet. Water quality in these lakes is good, with oxygen found all the way to the bottom in both lakes.

Because of their depth and water quality, Sand and Bowen are included in the IDNR Trout stocking program. Sand Lake now receives annually about 1,000 seven-inch Rainbow Trout. This provides what is known as a *two-story fishery*. The warmwater species (Bass, Bluegill, Redear) inhabit the warmer surface waters, while the coldwater species (Trout) prefer the deeper, colder water.

Without the Bass, Bluegill and Redear, fishing in these lakes would be terrible at best. But the Trout are there for the person who likes the challenge of catching something different.

If you feel like trying a little trout fishing, an article in the April, 1974 issue of *Outdoor Indiana* titled

"Trout Fishing in Indiana Lakes" will provide some good background information about the life habits of Trout in Indiana lakes.

Weber and Mud Lakes, the next two lakes in the chain, are less important as fishing areas. These lakes are small and very weedy. The only access to both is through the channels from Sand Lake upstream and Rivir Lake downstream. The channels are quite lengthy and meander through flooded timber and forest areas. Abundant wildlife can be observed from these channels if one takes the time to look.

Rivir is the next to last lake in the chain. It is here that the canoe campsites are being established. This lake has a surface area of 24 acres and a maximum depth of 33 feet. As in the other lakes in the chain, Bluegill are the most abundant fish. Rivir Lake also has a substantial Largemouth Bass population. The largest bass collected during the 1975 survey was taken from Rivir Lake and weighed in at five and one-half pounds. Rivir also has a large Black Crappie population.

Miller Lake is the last lake in the chain. Despite its small size (11 sur-

face acres) it also is an excellent Bluegill fishing spot. Gills up to 9.5 inches and over a half pound were collected in the June survey. The trick to fishing Miller is finding the right spot. Lily pads surround the shoreline and the bigger Bluegills move in and out of these areas to feed.

Redear are also important to the fishery in Miller Lake. In the June survey, numerous Redear more than eight inches were collected, with the largest weighing in at about a pound.

Popular baits include night crawlers, bee moths, red worms, and crickets, with some fish being taken in the Spring and Fall with dry flies.

Although Largemouth Bass are not as plentiful as in some of the other lakes in the chain, Miller does have a few nice ones. The largest Bass taken in the June collection was 18.5 inches long.

This completes the lakes in the chain. If you have a weekend or a whole week, to spend and want to get in some good fishing and participate in numerous other outdoor activities, Chain O' Lakes is your next vacation spot.

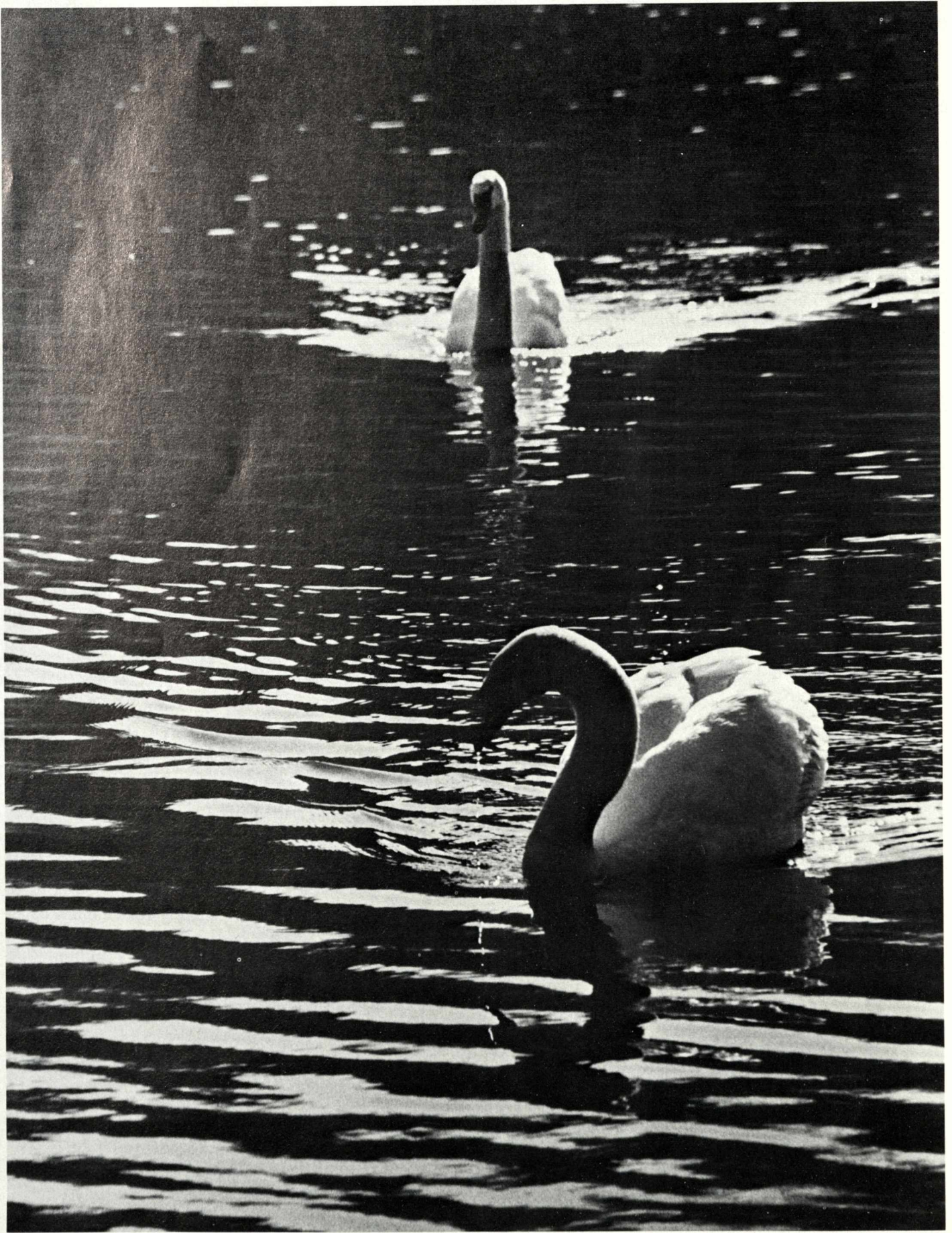


This Scene (and the View on Page 11) Suggest the Haunting Beauty of Chain o' Lakes State Park.

Yes, Mute Swans in Indiana!



Since 1462 the so-called Mute Swans have been the royal birds of England. In the wild they make noises but in captivity are mute. A few have been imported into the U.S.A. This rare and graceful pair recently appeared without advance notice at the Hayswood Nature Reserve in Southern Indiana's Harrison County.



The Forest Tent Caterpillar in Indiana

By Philip T. Marshall
Forest Pest Control Specialist

The Forest Tent Caterpillar, *Malacosoma disstria*, is the first major forest pest problem I have encountered in Indiana. During the Spring and early Summer of 1975 this caterpillar defoliated approximately 5,500 acres of timber along the Lawrence and Martin County lines.

The primary hosts of the Forest Tent Caterpillar in this area are the Oaks and Maples, with other species of trees being subject to feeding by the Caterpillar in heavily defoliated areas.

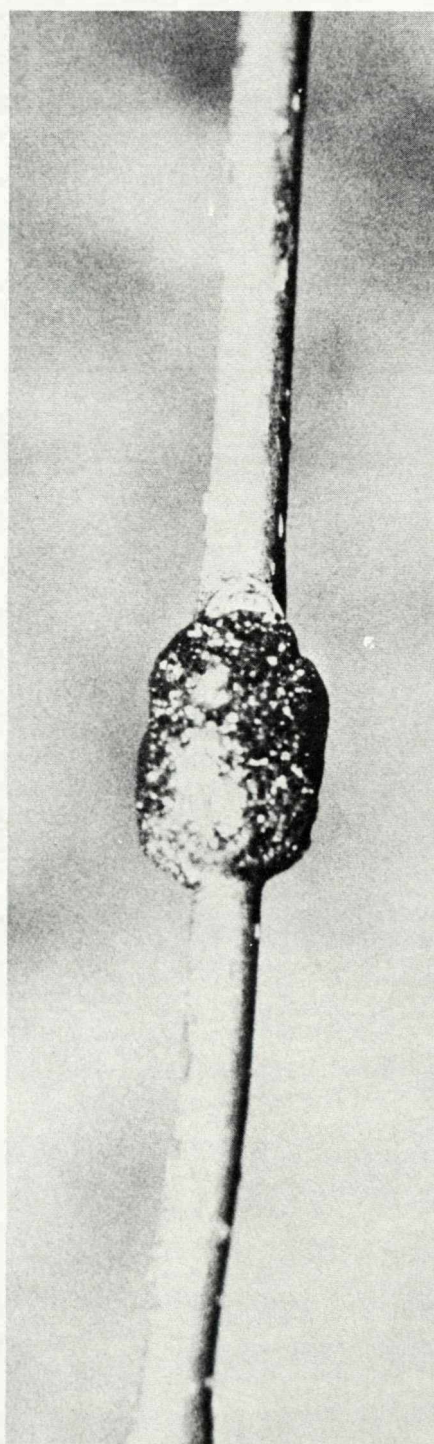
The Forest Tent Caterpillar occurs in other parts of the United States, where the insect may cause more damage as compared to here. In the Northern States and Canada, Aspen is the preferred host. In the Southern States the Gums are the preferred hosts.

The fully grown Caterpillars are dark brown to black, with a broad band of blue along each side and a prominent row of white keyhole-shaped spots down the center of the back.

The Caterpillar hatches from the eggmass about the time the leaves are developing on the tree. They feed on the leaves until mid-June, with evidence of the defoliation appearing in mid-to-latter May.

Although they are called Tent Caterpillars they do not make a silken structure similar to a tent. In defoliated areas silken strands will be encountered hanging from the trees. These strands are a means of travel for the Caterpillar. When conditions are not favorable for feeding the Caterpillars can be found resting on silken pads on the trunk of a tree.

The Caterpillar spins a cocoon in June on the remaining leaves in the tree, or in hidden places on the trunk of the tree, or on the leaves of under-story trees and in the litter. During July a light brown moth with



a wingspan of one-and-a-half inch will hatch from the cocoon.

The adult moth lives for approximately 10 days, during which time eggmasses are laid on the twigs of trees in the area. One eggmass may contain more than 300 eggs but us-

ually has 150 eggs. The eggmasses remain on the twig until the following Spring when hatching occurs.

The major damage from this forest pest is a loss of growth in the trees. The defoliation of 1975 resulted in a 10% loss in growth in the defoliated area. If defoliation continues this year as the past year the loss in growth will increase.

Other damage also occurs in defoliated areas like this area. For example, mortality could occur but this usually is not extensive. In some areas defoliation could result in a loss of recreation values. Other damage could be loss of watershed value and a change in wildlife populations.

At the present time no control program is being conducted in the Indiana defoliated area. An evaluation found the dollar loss to be less than the cost of a control program. Although no control measures were taken, the area will be surveyed and evaluated this coming Summer to determine if damage has increased and a control program is needed.

From a survey of the eggmasses the area of defoliation for the coming Summer has been predicted to increase to approximately 10,000 acres, with 60% of this area to receive medium to heavy defoliation. Therefore I wish to ask the landowners along the Lawrence-Martin and Lawrence-Greene County lines to examine their woods immediately and report any damage to Philip T. Marshall, Forest Pest Control Specialist, Vallonia State Nursery, Vallonia, IN 47281 (ph. 812-358-3621) or Eldon Campen, State Service Forester, P.O. Box 289, Bedford, IN 47421.

The Forest Tent Caterpillar (Upper Right) Is a New Pest in Indiana. A Cocoon Is in the Center of the Picture (Lower Right) and Eggmasses Are Shown on This Page.